

SUPPLEMENTAL PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/568,671

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3. (Cancelled).

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~the~~ a strain of lactic acid bacteria of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of lactobacillus ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and lactobacillus ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and an edible carrier or a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent, wherein the composition being is capable of stimulating mucosal immunity, and is in the form of a food or beverage.

Claim 5. (Cancelled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 54, ~~which~~ wherein said composition is a fermented milk, lactic acid bacteria beverage, fermented vegetable beverage, fermented fruit beverage, or fermented soymilk beverage.

Claim 7. (Cancelled).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A method of stimulating mucosal immunity in a human subject in need of such stimulation, comprising administering to said human subject the composition of claim 4 or claim 17.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A method of promoting IgA production in a human subject in need of such IgA production promoting treatment comprising, administering to said human subject the composition of claim 4 or 18.

Claims 11-15. (Cancelled).

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Claim 16. (New) The composition of claim 4, wherein said composition is in the form of granules, a powder, a tablet, an effervescent tablet or a pudding.

Claim 17. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for human mucosal immunostimulation comprising a strain of lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of *lactobacillus* ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and *lactobacillus* ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.

Claim 18. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for promoting human IgA production comprising a strain of lactic acid bacteria selected from the group consisting of *lactobacillus* ONRIC b0239 (FERM BP-10064) and *lactobacillus* ONRIC b0240 (FERM BP-10065), and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent.